

**Security Council Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security:  
Interdependence Between Security and Development**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

*Statement by H.E. Mr. John McNee, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations*

Canada, like others, congratulates Brazil on this important debate.

As Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Canada also fully associates itself with the statement just delivered by the Ambassador of Belgium on behalf of the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Today's debate reflects how far we have all moved beyond sterile discussions about whether security or development comes first; they are clearly interdependent. As the World Bank has shown, countries plagued by war are also the ones lagging furthest behind in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Painful experience also demonstrates that social and economic inequalities can cause and even exacerbate conflict. Women and children suffer particularly harsh consequences as a result of conflict. It can take many years, or even decades, to restore their social and economic well-being.

This poses significant challenges for the United Nations. One of the primary challenges is organizational. Canada's adoption of a whole-of-government approach in Haiti, the Sudan and Afghanistan has demonstrated that working in a coherent fashion yields dividends. Yet successful integration requires clarity about roles and responsibilities, a common strategy and the ability to act rapidly in response to changing realities. Despite recent progress, the United Nations must continue to improve in these respects. Duplication of roles and responsibilities still exists among United Nations departments, agencies and programmes, and Headquarters support to senior leaders in the field is too frequently delayed or inadequate.

It is not only within the United Nations system where improved coordination is essential. As noted in last year's Dili Declaration and eloquently expressed by the Group of Seven Plus, national ownership is necessary for effective peacebuilding. The international community must better align assistance behind national priorities, thereby enabling the more rapid re-establishment of core Government functions.

The interdependence of security and development also points to the need for rapid access to tailored civilian deployable expertise. In that regard, Canada looks forward to the recommendations of the review of international civilian capacities.

Beyond the United Nations, the international community as a whole must also be ready to respond. There is an urgent need to reinforce national capacity and engage expertise resident in the global South, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law, public administration, women, peace and security and basic social services.

While a case-by-case approach is needed, it is also clear that recurrent gaps exist. For example, governance and the rule of law consistently emerge as areas of weakness, with the justice sector frequently suffering from inadequate attention. This unbalanced approach is especially dangerous given that the establishment of a functioning, capable State is a fundamental precondition for lasting security and sustainable development.

Finally, the interdependence between security and development has implications for the work of the Council. The growing practice of designating integrated missions with mandates to coordinate a coherent United Nations approach is of course welcome. However, it will be important to draw on the comparative advantages within the United Nations system wherever possible, rather than expanding the range of responsibilities imposed on peace operations.

These are areas in which enhanced cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission offers much promise. Not only has the PBC begun to establish partnerships with relevant development partners, including the World Bank and regional organizations, but its composition and mandate are ideally suited to working at the nexus between security and development.

Two roles should be strengthened. First, the Security Council should increasingly draw on, and the

Peacebuilding Commission better provide, concrete analysis on development issues that either undermine security in the short term or will require early action to deliver peace dividends.

Secondly, the Commission can deepen its engagement with a wider circle of peacebuilding actors in order to better coordinate efforts and systematize lessons learned. At the country level, the PBC configurations provide the constant and close attention necessary to gaps, resource needs and the less pressing consideration of questions of sequencing. Within the United Nations system, the Commission can also play an important role by encouraging greater cohesion within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and by supporting reform processes outlined in the Secretary-General's reports, as well as the five-year peacebuilding architecture and civilian capacity reviews. More regular interaction between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, especially in advance of defining mission mandates and in the context of transition processes, could enhance the ability of both parties to work more effectively.

In conclusion, Madame President, let me assure you of Canada's continued commitment to improving the ability of the United Nations to meet these strategic and organizational challenges and to strengthen the foundations for development in the long-term.